
NATIONALISM IN SCIENTIFIC PUBLISHING

Among the most interesting phenomena of human relations to-day—and among the most delicate and difficult to discuss—are the contrary tendencies toward broad internationalism on the one hand and narrow nationalism on the other.

World contacts continue to grow closer and more immediate; Verne's eighty days are reduced to eight. There is the League of Nations, a great effort to arrive at coordination among the various subdivisions of humanity. Whether or not they are right who believe that that effort was over-ambitious or premature, there certainly is increasing official cooperation in many international activities. As for an international outlook on the part of individuals, even comparatively conservative people are participating more and more in international organizations as, for example, the Red Cross, the Boy Scouts, and the Rotary Club. In the medical world there are various broad-scope organizations, among them the recently-formed International Leprosy Association.

Yet there are seen today extraordinary efforts in the opposite direction. The nations seem to be trying to become economically independent of each other—the while, contradictorily, each hopes to sell more to the others than it buys. Stronger than ever, and more numerous, are movements such as that toward the political independence that is the aspiration of many groups now in political rela-

tionship with others. Correlative to this is the feeling that leads groups to return to old languages or to create new ones in an effort toward intellectual independence—in spite of the concomitant tendency toward intellectual seclusion.

The influence of nationalism or sectionalism is felt, of course, in the field of scientific writing and publication. There always have been those who ignored what was not done in their own country or their own language, a practice which is not only unfair to other workers but leads to delay of progress and wastage of effort, and is avoided by the properly-minded and properly equipped scientist. But there are many workers, at least in the medical field, who for lack of time do not, or for lack of facilities can not, keep properly in touch with world progress in the field in which they are working. It is, at least in part, to meet such needs that international publications such as this *JOURNAL* exist.

Once such a periodical is started, those who are working in the field which it covers are faced with the question whether to publish the results of their work in it or somewhere else. It is only natural, and to be expected, that some of them will choose the latter alternative for one reason or another. The man working abroad may have reasons for preferring a home periodical. The man only secondarily interested in the subject, or interested in only a local aspect of it, may choose a local, general periodical rather than an international one of more restricted, selected distribution. There are, too, those who though actively and exclusively working in the special field will, for whatever reason, make a similar choice, even at the risk that their work may not receive due recognition abroad.

The matter is to be considered from the viewpoint of the reader as well as that of the writer. Those who are truly interested in the broader aspects of their field of activity will wish their special, international journal to cover adequately the activities and accomplishments in all parts of the world. In order that this may be realized they will, in turn, offer contributions of their own through that medium. In this way the international journal can fulfill its intended function, and will not have even a suspicion of being run for or by any particular group or groups, whoever they may be, that do use it for the publication of their work.